

VALIANT



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VALIANT VOICE



SHADOWMAN: 1889

X-O MANOWAR CENTERFOLD POSTER

WIN A GOLD BOOK IN BERNARD CHANG 'DO CONTEST

SHADOWMAN YEARBOOK TAKES YOU TO THE MAX



For months now, fans of *Shadowman* have been intrigued by Maxim St. James, the New Orleans fancyman who took on the mantle of Shadowman under mysterious circumstances over a hundred years ago.

We were given a glimpse of his origin in the richly eerie *Shadowman* #0, and we were shocked to find him risen from an interminable coma during *The Chaos Effect* to give Master Darque major problems in *Secrets of the Valiant Universe* #2. Now, one of Max St. James' most spectacular adventures will be recounted in the *Shadowman Yearbook* #1.

Fans of *Archer & Armstrong* know that at some time in the past, Armstrong involved himself in several escapades with at least one Shadowman before running into Jack Bonifacio. The *Shadowman Yearbook* is the story of one such meeting. Abroad in the United Kingdom, Max St. James joins forces with Armstrong to thwart Edwardian London's "Cult of

Asmodeus." Bizarre human sacrifices, Jules Verne airships, the Hellfire Club, and a 40-round bare-knuckle prizefight are just some of the dark encounters Shadowman will experience during his British odyssey.

Val Mayerik, best known for his atmospheric artwork and gorgeous period comics, will be doing his first work for Valiant as the *Shadowman Yearbook* penciler and inker.

"I think Val is an excellent choice to do the yearbook," said Bob Hall, who has taken time from a hectic schedule writing and penciling the regular *Shadowman* series, as well as writing *Timewalker*, to edit the *Shadowman Yearbook*. "He has a fine line, and a feel for detail that's going to make the story really come to life."

Mayerik joins Will Eisner Award-winning writer Mike Baron (who has recently begun to kick the *H.A.R.D. Corps* little into high gear) on what is sure to be one of the year's most talked about titles.

NOVEMBER DECLARED X-O MONTH

This November, the Valiant spotlight will be on *X-O Manowar*. A special 12-page story, *X-O Manowar* #1/2, will be featured exclusively in *Wizard* magazine, while the regular series will be released weekly throughout the month. Introduced in *X-O Manowar* #1/2 will be a new group of villains, the Immortals, who give Aric more than a bit of trouble. Imprisoned in a correctional facility by Toyo Harada, the leader of the Harbinger Foundation, these unstable Harbingers are freed by the enigmatic Wolfbridge.

This special edition will lead directly into a four-part story, "The Wolfbridge Affair," with one full-length issue shipping each week in November. The four-part is the culmination of a story that has been building in the pages of *X-O Manowar* for nearly a year. Aric and Orb Industries Security Chief Randy Carter parted on unpleasant terms following Paul Bourcier's death and dramatic absorption into the new X-O armor. Aric tracks his close friend and lover Randy into the wilds of Canada, where he discovers that someone has been killing off members of her old Canadian Secret Service unit.

For fans of *X-O Manowar*, this story promises to be a non-stop epic adventure as Aric and Randy are drawn halfway across the world in an attempt to stop Wolfbridge's mad machinations in an explosive climax. Aric,

Randy, and a surprise guest star face off against the Immortals, Snakebite, and Wolfbridge. If the trio fails, the world faces nuclear extortion by the power-hungry Wolfbridge, who seems to have no problem with setting off a few bombs in populated areas just to prove a point.

"I hope this story shows readers that Aric has evolved and become stronger since the birth of the new armor," said series writer Jorge Gonzalez. "Aric is forced into a situation in which his natural inclination to carry out a personal vendetta must take a back seat to the larger threat at hand—preventing the destruction of this modern world that he has been thrown into. This will be X-O's greatest challenge yet."

The creative team for this four-part remains writer Gonzalez, penciller Rik Levins, inker Randy Billott, and colorist Andy Coyalt. Obviously sleep will be a precious commodity for the four artists over the next few months as they work four times harder than usual.

In addition, *X-O Manowar* #1/2 in *Wizard* will include an extensive interview with Jorge Gonzalez. Also featured will be an incredible *X-O Manowar* sketchbook showcasing many of Valiant's top artists including Michael Hail, Bryan Hitch, Rik Levins, Kathryn Bollinger, Jeff Johnson, and Tim Ryker.



EDITORIAL



FROM CHAOS COMES... A NEW ORDER

Thanks to you, *The Chaos Effect* was a roaring success. And, in the wake of the most titanic undertaking in the history of Valiant, many changes have occurred.

Gone from the Valiant Universe are Geoff the Golemancer, Archer and Armstrong, Master Darque, Mademoiselle Nolt, and the Immortal Enemy (although we all know he'll be back. He was designed to be the ultimate "bad penny").

Meanwhile, Magnus (the elder) is searching for his roots in the year 1924. Dr. Minge has been reunited with his beloved wife, Carmen, the Destroyer has appeared in the world of the *Phil Lords—Dimensional Reality*, all that there have been, and Shadowman has stepped into the Darque power which has endowed him with new abilities. All this—and the mysterious Visitor has appeared in our universe.

Editorially, we have made a few changes as well. Jorge Gonzalez has stepped down as editor of *Bloodshot* and *Solar* to devote more time to his first love—writing *X-O Manowar* and *American*.

Julie Crammins, Jeff Gomez, and Jesse Berdinika have all been promoted to full Editors and are bringing a new excitement to their individual groups of books. Robin Klein (former Proofreader-Supreme) has become Assistant Editor to Maurice Fontenot and Jesse Berdinika. My congratulations go to each and every one of them. They've earned it.

Also, Bernard Chang and I will be taking our leave of *Doctor Minge* as of issue #13. Bernard ("The Doctor"), as he's known in the Valiant offices, goes on to begin penciling the exciting adventures of *The Visitor*, which will premiere in December. I will miss writing the ongoing adventures of Hwen, Carmen, "Rico" and Mama Fong, but my increasing duties as Senior VP/Publisher-in-Chief has made it all but impossible to hold down a monthly title.

It's not that I intend to give up scripting. Far from it. It's just that I'm going to choose the projects and make damn sure I can fit them into my schedule. Changes are happening so fast up here that it's impossible to tell you in an every one of them. Some new, exciting directions and brilliant talent will be added to the universe in the months to come. But that is for another editorial.

"Change is the inevitability of life," said Master Ting in *The Chaos Effect*.

From Chaos comes... a bigger, bolder Valiant Universe!

Bob Layton
Editor-in-Chief

VALIANT.



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SEABORN ADAMSON
Valiant Publisher



Valiant Valiant Staff: Marty Stever, Jeffrey Gomez, Scott Friedlander, Elin Mae, John Johnson, Robin Klein

Contributing writers: Jeffrey Gomez, Darren Sanchez, Scott Friedlander, Marty Stever, Jon Hartz, Julie Crimmis, Seaborn Adamson, Matt Forbeck

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MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER

The World Leader Searches the Secrets of His Past

by Seaborn Adamson

To recount the epic story of Magnus Robot Fighter you must go back to some of the earliest stories told in the Valiant Universe. It is 1991, and the Harbinger Renegades are on the run. The young and powerful Torque fell in love with Kris Hathaway, who was the heart of the Renegades team and the girlfriend of Sting, the Renegade's leader (*Harbinger #4*). Kris and Torque's time together was brief. Torque was slain by Eggbreakers from Toyo Harada's Harbinger Foundation before Kris even knew she was expecting a child (*Harbinger #6*). Only a couple of months later, the team was thrust into the heart of the *Unity* conflict in the Lost Land (*Harbinger #8*). On the 157th day of that struggle, under extremely adverse circumstances, Kris gave birth to a baby boy. The Geomancer of the day, Geoff McHenry, told Kris that the destiny of her son, Magnus, lay in the far future. Trusting the young Geomancer, she gave the child over to Geoff, who in turn had Solar send the baby on a fateful journey (*Unity #1*).



Magnus assumed his life's calling as defender of North Am against rogue freewill robots (automatons endowed with free will after freak electrical surges).

When Magnus was in his early twenties, he left the secret underground base of his adoptive robot parent, and began his career as the protector of North Am. His foes ranged from the rogue robots to deranged scientists and would-be despots who threatened the peace and serenity of the great continent-wide metropolis. For a time Magnus was a shining hero to the people of North Am. The young woman he had met during the course of his first adventure there, Leeja Clane, became his constant companion and the love of his life. Leeja, the daughter of Senator (and later, President) Zeramiah Clane, accompanied Magnus on many of his missions and proved more than a hero in her own right.

Ultimately, Magnus came to a crossroads in his career as robot fighter. He began to doubt his "right" to destroy these machines if they were truly sentient beings. When he chose to allow a group of rogues to escape rather than eradicate them, he was branded a traitor by the Council of North Am and sentenced to be psycho-probed. Magnus balked—he was not about to allow his mind to be tampered with. He renounced his position there, choosing instead to dwell on the "Goph Leys" below North Am, amongst the social outcasts and misfits who lived there. But the mantle of hero was hard for Magnus to deny. Although hidden in exile, he continued to come to the aid of North Am again and again.

In 1991, Eric Pierce, driven insane by the same nuclear accident that created Solar, decided to resume his "Mothergod" and use her fantastic powers to create "Unity," remaking time itself (as retold in *The Unity Saga* trade paperback). Across history, the Geomancers became aware that something was wrong, and began assembling the heroes of the Valiant Universe to prevent the impending disaster. Magnus became one of these heroes, recruited from the future to stop Mothergod. During his sojourn to the Lost Land, Magnus held Kris Hathaway's baby—himself, as an infant! Later, he would receive a letter, written by his mother and entrusted to the Geomancers. It would tell him who his parents were and how proud Kris had been of her son—whom she'd been fortunate enough to meet during *Unity* (*Magnus #25*).

After *Unity*, Magnus attempted to settle into a somewhat normal life, but his destiny lay in another direction entirely. In 4000 A.D., the robotic Malevolents launched an all-out assault on Earth (*Magnus #21*). They brought about the destruction of Magnus' robot mentor I-A and destroyed much of North Am in their initial assault. Magnus joined forces with Takao Konishi—the "Last" Rai—and a band of heroes known as the Future Force (including Leeja, Col. Timboe, The Eternal Warrior, X-O Commando, Geomancer Rokland Tate, Gophs Billy and Slagger, proto-robot fighter Izak, and a Spider-Alien known as Spylocke) to fight a long and bloody war against the Malev Emperor.



The ramifications of the Malev Invasion were immense. Humanity would have been overrun were it not for the timely arrival of the Psi-Lords, and the sacrifice of Magnus' closest friend, Rai. Leeja gave birth to Rai's child during the concluding days of the Malev War. She and Rai had conceived the boy during a tense period in which Magnus and Leeja were estranged. The world of 4003 A.D., brought together by the massive devastation, needed a new leader. There was little choice.

Later that year, reconciled with Leeja, Magnus became President of the new Terran Confederation and, with the aid of his father-in-law, oversaw the rebuilding of North Am and the rest of the world. He mediated an agreement between mankind and the Psi-Lords, accepting the aid of these powerful beings in the termination of any remaining freewill robots who had been corrupted by the Malev Emperor. Magnus and Leeja had a son of their own, Torque, who grew up with his half-brother Obadiah at the temple in Ladakh. Magnus Robot Fighter had become Magnus, Husband, Father, Politician. His uneasy alliance with the Psi-Lords and the rebellious nature of his son Torque would see to it that his life would be anything but simple!



In 4020 A.D., Magnus was called upon to risk his own life in a desperate gamble to halt *The Chaos Effect*, which threatened to destroy everything he had ever known! Armed with the wisdom and technology of the combined forces of the Destroyer and the Psi-Lords, he leapt into the past in an attempt to restore the cosmic balance (*Magnus #41* and *The Chaos Effect—Omega*) disrupted during *Unity*. A great adventure awaits him in the time of his parents, from which he may never return.

This summer will bring you both the *Magnus Yearbook #1*, a tale out of the Robot Fighter's past which is not to be missed, and the two-part *Chaos Effect Epilogue*, in which Magnus' odyssey takes him full circle to New York City and an all out confrontation with the Omega Harbinger, Toyo Harada—in the year 1994! In the process, Magnus will touch the lives of Timewalker and Zephyr of the Harbinger Detention Squad. Ultimately, he will be forced to make a sacrifice that will shock loyal readers for months to come.



VOICE MAIL

Please address all correspondence to:
VALIANT VOICE™
c/o VOYAGER COMMUNICATIONS
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001



IVAR GOES TO ROME

I've just read the article about *Timewalker* in the *Wizard Special: The Valiant Era*, and, needless to say, I'm very excited about this new title. To be honest, I've been waiting for this book for months, due to the fact that time traveling stories are my favorite. I especially liked what you said about the way Ivar would interact with pieces of Valiant's history. I really hope you will be dealing with some "Back to the Future" elements, as well. Though I agree with the fact that historical stuff is more *Eternal Warrior* turf, please don't forget it completely. There is so much for Ivar to discover about himself and how he relates to Earth's history.

A question: I still do not understand why Ivar enters the time arcs. I mean, is it just curiosity, or is he forced to enter the arcs?

Alfredo Ferrante
Rome, Italy

It's great to learn that *Timewalker* has developed fans as far away as Italy, and Issue #1 has only been on the stands for a few weeks! Well, it looks like all your wishes will be fulfilled, Alfredo. Ivar will get caught up in the Charge of the Light Brigade in Issue #2, before he finds himself in New York City in the year 1998 in Issues #3 and #4. But just wait till January of 1995, when *Timewalker* finds himself at a pivotal moment in Valiant history. We can't tell you which one just yet, but suffice to say it's going to be an epic! Your questions about how Ivar travels through time will be answered more fully in *Timewalker* #8, which will be out next spring.

FAREWELL ARCHER & ARMSTRONG

I have never been so entertained by the endless antics of two characters who keep bumping into situations and dragging each other's butts out them. I was sure, as the issues of *Archer & Armstrong* wore on, that this comic would go the way of the dinosaurs, great majestic creatures that they

were...but unable to adapt.

Let's face it, Archer and Armstrong have barely changed since the beginning of the comic. Archer is still naive and pure, and Armstrong, as history will show into the past and future, is still a big, fat, floundering fool who never says "die," although "let's run away" always seems to work. Could the Eternal Warrior, defender of the Geomancers, come from the same gene pool as the defiler of all that is holy, the drinker of everything drinkable, and the lover of everything—well, maybe not everything, but almost? Armstrong is Dionysus in immortal form, left here for mortals to measure their own lives against.

Brendan Michael Howard
West Covina, CA

A fitting epitaph, Brendan! We've gotten tons of mail lamenting, cursing and shouting about the shocking fates of Geoff the Geomancer and Archer and Armstrong at the conclusion of *The Chaos Effect—Omega*. Many of you have been citing *Rai* #8, and telling us that the heroic trio can't be dead, because they all show up to pursue their individual destinies later on in the Valiant timeline. In fact, fans of *Aram the Other* will get to drink deeply with their hefty hero in the *Shadowman Yearbook*, coming in October. Also, in upcoming issues of *Magnus Robot Fighter*, Stimper (for albeit crafty reasons) has sent Torque on a quest to find Armstrong, who is rumored to be still alive and somewhere in the solar system in the year 4020! But where are Geoff, Archer, and Armstrong now? Well, Brendan, it seems you may have unwittingly given us a clue in the way you've worded your letter!

CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER IMAGE READER

I have a confession to make. I used to buy every single Image book on the stands. My friend and I once read something about *Unity* in *Wizard: "Unity"* Who cares? What kind of

name is X-O Manowar? The only reason the books aren't on the stands is because no one orders them! Boy, were we wrong.

It was actually that same friend who picked up a few chapters of *Unity*, plus *Rai* #8 and some other stuff. He got me to buy *Bloodshot* #1. And slowly, as I picked up the *Harbinger* trade paperback and various other Valiant comics over the next year, I realized what quality there really was in these issues. I also watched the prices go up and up and up. I kicked myself, because I actually remember seeing ads for *Magnus Robot Fighter* #1 (being a huge *Transformers* fan, I notice robots easily).

Your stories make me positive that you guys have the best continuity, and the most planned out comics. I love it! By the way, I like the new cover style you have on your books, starting with *Secret Weapons* #14—keep it up.

Zeke Reich
New York, NY

Thanks for the compliments, Zeke. With seventeen or more titles come out of Valiant every month, maintaining our trademark strong continuity can get tricky, but our editors, writers and artists work closely to keep things straight. Hey, and thanks for the kudos on our new cover style. How about some feedback, Valiant fans? Do you like our new cover style?

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT VALIANT

First of all, let me say that I wholeheartedly agree with Bob Layton's statement that it is now the Big 3. Of all the companies around at present, Valiant is the only one of which I purchase the entire line. My monthly intake consists of 100% of the Valiant line, about 95% of DC, 5% of Marvel, 80% of Dark Horse, and a smattering of the others.

I really like the recent change to a weekly Valiant Bulletin Board in the back of the books. The old practice of having the same two pages in each of your books got very repetitive. At least now, even those who do not purchase the entire line have a good chance of being exposed to all four pages, and for those of us that do, there is some variety.

I'd like to ask you, what ever happened to the Letter of the Month that appeared sporadically in some of your books? Will you ever have regular letter columns? I imagine you must get plenty of mail.

Keep up the fantastic job! I can truly say that out of all the comics I get each month yours (and the *Superman* titles) are the ones I most look forward to.

Craig Larson
Chesapeake, VA

Be on the lookout for letter columns in upcoming issues of many of the Valiant titles, Mr. Larson. Many of our readers have been asking for letter cols, and so we're going to try them out in some of the books. Remember, people, if you'd like to see one of your letters published in your favorite book, it would be best to print clearly and be specific about what you like or don't like about the characters, stories and artwork.

NEWS FLASH

Dr. Mirage Haunts TV Guide!

Valiant was recently featured in *TV Guide*, the best selling magazine in America. *TV Guide*'s Michael Logan wrote about Walt Willey's appearance in *The Second Life of Dr. Mirage*. In the article, Walt talks about how the idea came to fruition, and an overview of the plot was also included. Illustrating the article was the cover of *Dr. Mirage* #13 by Bernard Chang.

More Painted Yearbook Covers on the Way

A trio of superb artists have been lined up to paint the covers for three upcoming Valiant yearbooks. Joe Linsner, best known for his work on *Cry for Dawn*, will be doing the honors on the *Eternal Warrior Yearbook*, written by Rob Johnson, and scheduled for release this coming November. Val Mayerik, who will be pencilling and inking this October's *Shadowman Yearbook*, will prove his versatility by painting the cover. Finally, Stu Zichit, who's work was so popular on last year's *Eternal Warrior Yearbook*, will be striking a second time with the cover to the January '95 *Ninjak Yearbook*, written by Mike Baron.

Two New Staffers Welcomed

A pair of newcomers have come on board to lend support to our busy Editorial Department. Gregg Sanderson clocks in as our newest Assistant Editor, and Mark Morelli has replaced Robin Klein as Valiant's proof reader. Robin has been promoted to Assistant Editor. Welcome, dudes! Now get busy!

Valiant Quality Apparel

These items are sure to be in short supply, so if you want them, tell the folks at your comic shop. They'll order them for you.

Rai T-Shirt
Solar T-Shirt
Valiant Hat
Shadowman Long Sleeved T-shirt
Valiant Logo Long Sleeved T-shirt

NOVEMBER



IS



MONTH!





JOHNSON
RYDER



VALIANT.



A VIEW FROM WITHIN



This month we've been very busy in the Production Department. So, while I'm overseeing the making of the books, Scott Friedlander, our Design Director has agreed to sit in and write his "View from Within". Not to say that Scott isn't busy himself. Since this is the first post-Chaos month, our new covers will be premiering and Scott has spent a good portion of the summer thus far designing and "tweaking" them to perfection. So on we go...

ADS Darren Sanchez
Production Manager

In what is certain to be a continuing tradition, (especially since we can no longer play wheel-chair basketball with carpeted offices), the first Valiant Air-Hockey Championships were held at Hackers Sports Bar on July 27th, here in Manhattan. When the match-ups were announced, everyone anxiously listened to see who their first victim would be. One of the early favorites, Charles Lister opened miserably against Santiago (Iago) Vazquez in what turned out to be an early upset, setting the tone for matches to come.

Next up was Rafael Soler versus myself in a grueling, sweat inducing workout. Iago put up odds on this match to see who would come away less injured! As it turned out, I took the lead for most of the game, but Rafael rallied and attained a neck-and-neck tie. Only a single ill flick of my wrist led me to a 7-to-6 loss and my first round demise.



All Darren Sanchez and Badé Francis stepped up to take the table, a strange occurrence took place. Darren is a team player through and through, but when he's "one on one" on the Air-Hockey battlefield, he becomes a man on a mission. Darren turned into a fighting machine! Badé being a new-comer to these afternoon tension release sessions, was ill-equipped to face-off against the smooth operating Sanchez. After a 7-to-3 loss, we consoled Badé telling him to keep a stiff upper lip, and watch out for those flying discs next time.

Next up in the preliminary round was the agile Frank Boryan against wily Mike Tuccinard. This was a true thrill-a-minute, with dueling discs hurtling at break-neck speeds, causing quite a commotion throughout the bar. Little did Frank suspect that Mike's response time would be lightning fast. He can turn and strike in a flash! Within seconds of one another from the start, it came as a surprise to us all as the parting shot rang Mike up as the last preliminary winner.

The semi-finals were, to be blunt, grueling to watch. First Iago and Rafael went at it, but it was plain to see that Iago was too crafty. He played circles around his overmatched opponent. Rafael did his best to tag in his few points, but it was all in vain. Iago was not to be beaten. A 7-to-3 victory left Iago with a pulled out chest and a feeling of invincibility. On the other hand, the Darren/Mike match that followed made it obvious that Iago got off easy, and was lookin' too big in his britches. Here were two men at war! Tough as it was, Mike came out on top, leaving Darren a heaving mess to be mopped up and delivered back to his seat.

In order to maintain the upper hand, Iago quickly delivered the token required to start the Championship round, before Mike even had a moment to wipe the sweat from his brow and catch his breath. Therein lay Iago's first mistake! Instead of catching Mike at a winded moment, he was merely getting juiced up.



"Mike, the Valiant Air-Hockey Champion!"

At least that's how he'll stand this month. But just wait till the next time—he'll pay!

Scott Friedlander
Design Director

VALIANT Road Rally Round-up

We wanted to share some of the many photos we snapped while we were on this year's convention circuit. Thanks to all the fans who stopped by the Valiant booth. An especially big thanks to those who wore Valiant costumes, attended our slide shows and presentations, took part in our trivia contests, and on especially big thanks to Valiant auction bidders. Remember, wear a decent Valiant costume to a convention we're attending and win a Gold book!



VALIANT 1994 Road Show Checklist:

Great Eastern New York	February
Motor City Con	March
Wondercon	May
Heroes Aren't Hord to Find	June
Chicago ComiCon	July
Dragoncon/ACE	July
San Diego Comic Con	August



FUTURE PERFECT

by Matt Forbeck

At 27, Tony Bedard is one of the youngest Executive Editors in comics history. We caught up with him in his office at Valiant's New York headquarters and asked him about what he has in store for Valiant's ever-expanding universe.

How did you get started in comic books?

I've been reading comics since I was seventeen. I've always liked storytelling, and I always envisioned myself writing books or something like that. Of course, when you're growing up, you also want some sort of life plan that seems practical, so I went to college and studied business. It took me that long to finally realize that I didn't want to run a restaurant.

Soon after, I moved to New York and started interning here at Valiant. I just wanted to get in and learn whatever I could, so I worked for free, taking out the trash and all that. I kept submitting plots, and after the eighth or ninth plot, they accepted one.

Finally, they let me become the Editorial Coordinator, sort of the traffic manager job. Since then, I've been eking my way up. From there, I went to Editor, and eventually the slot opened up for Executive Editor.

Wow! That's all in about a two-year time span, right?

Yeah. It was a combination of things—mainly luck. I came in a month after Jim Shooter departed, and there were a lot of opportunities. The place was growing quickly. I think I worked hard and competently enough that they trusted me with more and more.

What are your duties as Executive Editor?

As Executive Editor, I look more at the basic direction of the books. All the plots go through me, and I critique them to see if they're plausible.

Also, I'm doing some creator recruiting. I've managed to lure Bryan Hitch into doing a few projects with us, for example, and I'm real excited about that. He has a wonderful style. I've got a 24-hour-a-day job, but I'm doing exactly what I want to be doing right now. How many people in the world can say that?

Can you tell us something about the special books coming out from Valiant in October? *Unity: The Last Chapter*, *Harbinger Files #2* and *Secrets of the Valiant Universe #3*.

Last Chapter is basically an X-O Menowar Yearbook. In *Unity* there was a splash page in which X-O just about gets bitten in half by this tyrannosaurus rex. It was one of the most violent, vivid moments in Valiant history. Once that happened, he had to put on the armor to live. He asked the armor how long it would take him to heal, and the answer was ten years.

The next time we see X-O is in *Unity #1*. He shows up after having had a big battle, but we never saw it. That's what this story deals with. After he gets bitten in half, he goes on a rampage against all the tyrannosaur bionosaurs in the Lost Land. It's an exciting story with a lot of fight scenes and splashy images!

Secrets of the Valiant Universe #3 deals with Sho Sugino, the second Rai in history. The Rais are a line of Japanese champions in the distant future. This computer called Grandmother creates them to watch over Japan and imbues them with energy that enables them to create weapons, amongst other neat things. In *Rai #9*, Sho Sugino was instrumental in



recovering the Blood of Heroes, and we're going to learn about his exile from Japan, and his connection to the Lost Land.

Harbinger Files #2 is the most important because it introduces a character that's going to become a major player in the Valiant universe. This is the Harbinger. People familiar with the book know that Harada is the most powerful Harbinger in the world. He's different because most Harbingers can only manifest one power at a time. Only two known Harbingers can use more than one, and those are the Omega Harbingers, like Harada. It's a mystery as to who this new villain really is, but when people find out, they'll be shocked and pleased and really excited.

You write three books, Valiant's future books. What's in the future for those?

In *Pai-Lords #5*, the *Pai-Lords'* main bad guy, Ravenrok, is introduced.

With the *Pai-Lords*, there are three different classes because of what happened with Ravenrok, and the story will reveal all this. He's hell on wheels—he can take them all on at one time. It's really going to be a planet-destroying battle.

As for *Rai*, I've been having a lot of fun with that book. I got to introduce the new Rai, and I've mapped out his long-term character arc, the growth and changes this character's going to go through. With this new Rai, I'm trying to get some development, so he's not going to stay stuck at the same person.

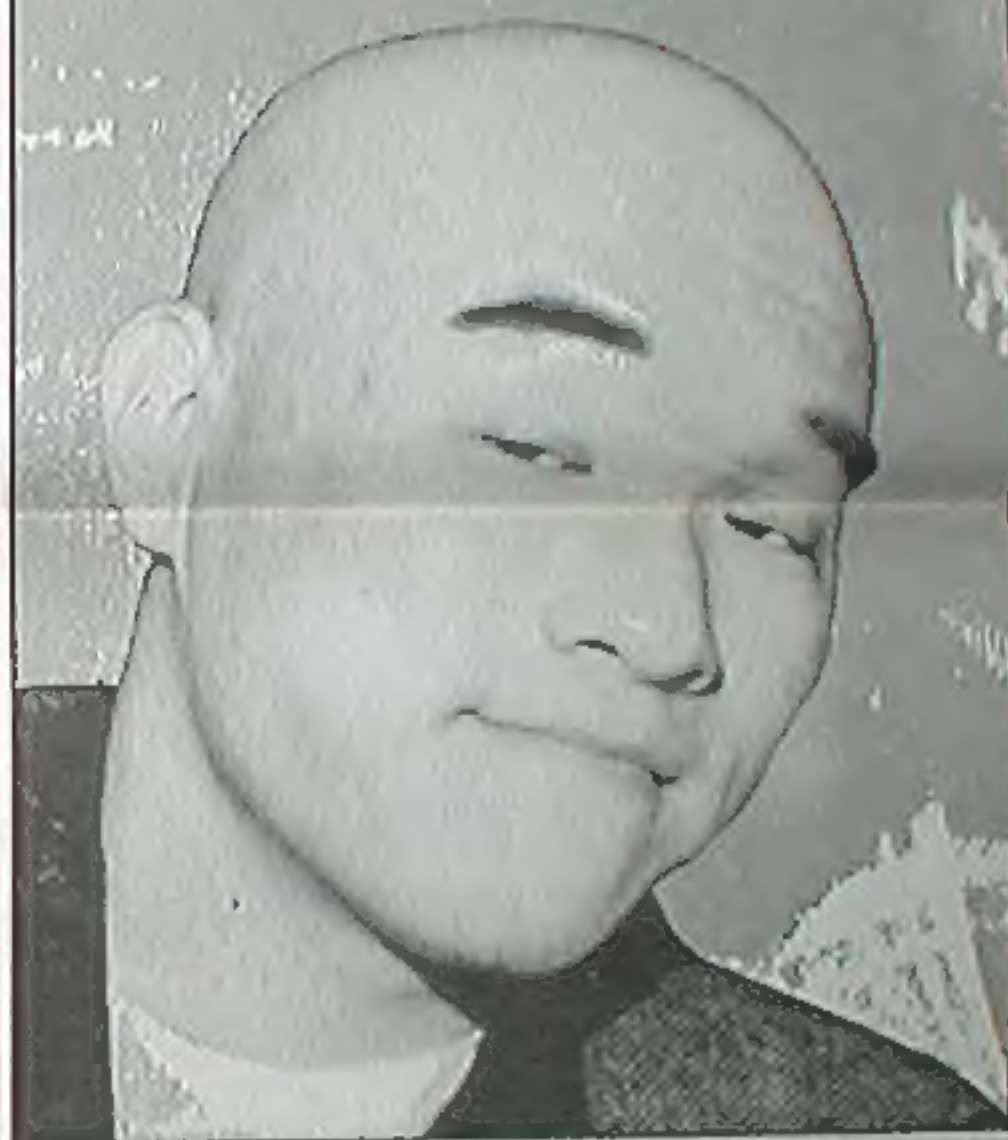
I've been building up this rivalry between Rai and the son of the original Rai, Takashi. In the course of *The Chaos Effect*, Takashi made his bid for power. When Rai returns from getting his act together in *Rai* issue #28, there'll be a big confrontation.

In *Magnus Robot Fighter*, people have been concerned that since Torque is now the center of attention, Magnus is expendable. In actuality, during *The Chaos Effect*, Magnus is returned to our present-day continuity. So *The Chaos Effect—Epilogue* will be Magnus's New York adventure, like the old *Tarzan* movie. It's going to be a journey of discovery for him in which he tries to find his parents.

In any case, he's out of action in the future for a while, and the Immortal Enemy, a reincarnating villain, makes his bid for power. He does away with Rakkie Tate, the Geomancer of 4020. In a parallel to the present, they have to find a new one. The Enemy convinces people that the new Geomancer has to be Armstrong, who's been missing for a thousand years.

Torque goes off to find Armstrong, but before long he realizes he's been duped and has left the kingdom in the hands of the most evil person in history. So about the time Magnus gets back into the picture, it's all going to hit the fan.

DESIGN BERNARD'S HAIRDO!



Come up with a cool colf for superstar penciller Bernard Chang and win a Gold book! Entries will be judged on the freshest, funkkest fodes, or the ones that are the most imaginative, funny, or wiggid-out winy! How do you enter, you ask? Simply cut out (or photocopy, if you don't want to ruin your issue of this month's *Valiant Voice*) the above picture and draw up what you think would be a slammin' hairstyle for Bernard! Send your entry with your name and address to: Design Bernard's Hairdo Contest, *Valiant Voice*, c/o Voyager Communications Inc., 275 Seventh Ave., NY, NY 10001.

The first 5 (five) postmarked entries with the most for-out, kickin' cuts will receive a Gold book, compliments of Valiant. All entries must be postmarked no later than Sept. 30th, 1994. Limit one per household; winners will be listed in the November issue of the *Voice*. We guaranteed Bernard it would be quite the hairy experience!



STYLE AND UP, FANS!

